



[Billing Code 4140-01-P]

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Implementation of the Updated *American Veterinary Medical Association Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2013 Edition*

SUMMARY: The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is providing guidance to Public Health Service (PHS) awardee institutions on implementation of the *American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2013 Edition (Guidelines)*. The NIH is seeking input from the public on any concerns they may have regarding the updated *Guidelines*.

DATES: Public concerns regarding the updated *AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2013 Edition* must be submitted electronically at

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/2013avmaguidelines_comments/add.cfm?ID=32 by

May 31, 2013, in order to be considered.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, Office of Extramural Research, NIH, RKL1, Suite 360, 6705 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892-7982; phone 301-496-7163; e-mail olaw@od.nih.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) oversees PHS-funded animal activities by the authority of the Health Research Extension Act of 1985 (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/references/hrea1985.htm>) and the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (PHS Policy; <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/references/phspol.htm>). The PHS Policy IV.C.1.G. (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/references/phspol.htm#ReviewofPHS-ConductedorSupportedResearchProjects>) requires that Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUCs) reviewing PHS-conducted or -supported research projects, determine if methods of euthanasia used in projects will be consistent with the recommendations of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia, unless a deviation is justified for scientific reasons in writing by the investigator.

PHS-Assured institutions are encouraged to begin using the *2013 Guidelines* as soon as possible when reviewing research projects, and full implementation is expected after September 1, 2013. Previously approved projects undergoing continuing review according to PHS Policy IV.C.5. (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/references/phspol.htm#ReviewofPHS-ConductedorSupportedResearchProjects>), which requires a complete de novo review at least once every 3 years, must be reviewed using the *2013 Guidelines* after September 1, 2013.

II. Electronic Access

The AVMA has issued and posted an update to the *2007 Guidelines on Euthanasia* with a new title, *AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2013*

Edition, available at <https://www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Documents/euthanasia.pdf>
(PDF).

Dated: March 14, 2013

Francis S. Collins,

Director

National Institutes of Health

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